



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Auditor-Controller
Director of Health Services
Director of Public Health

At its meeting held November 25, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Knabe and Burke:

“On Tuesday, November 18, 2003, KNBC ran a story about the deplorable conditions in a number of apartments in the County; apartments that are inspected by our Environmental Health inspectors. Investigative reporter Joel Grover found that tenants do not know about the information regarding the inspections of these buildings, which is available from the Health Department. Grover also raised questions about whether our inspection program is effective in fixing recurring problems at rental properties.

“Conditions in some rental properties have been a problem for many years, and it is important that we take immediate action to assure that our program is as effective as possible. Tenants should know where and how to get information about the buildings they are currently in or those buildings they may be considering. This is a fundamental issue of the right to information.

“I therefore recommend that the Directors of Health Services and Public Health report to the Board at the November 25, 2003 meeting with the following:

1. A comprehensive plan to address the issues raised by the KNBC investigative report regarding the deplorable conditions in a number of apartments in the County that are inspected by the County's Environmental Health inspectors;

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2. How information about the buildings can be made readily available to tenants; and
3. How to assure that rental properties are not allowed to continue operating year after year with health code violations.”

America Gil addressed the Board.

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health, Department of Health Services, gave a verbal report regarding a comprehensive plan to address the issues raised by the KNBC investigative report regarding the deplorable conditions in a number of apartments in the County that are inspected by the County's Environmental Health inspectors; how information about the buildings can be made readily available to tenants; and how to assure that rental properties are not allowed to continue operating year after year with health code violations.

Supervisor Antonovich made a suggestion that the Director of Public Health be instructed to look into modifying the County ordinance relating to the times of day and/or evenings that County Inspectors are allowed to examine dwellings.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Director of Public Health was instructed to report back to the Board at the January 13, 2004, Board Meeting with the following:

- a. Proposed modification of the County ordinance relating to the times of day and/or evenings that County Environmental Health inspectors are allowed to examine dwellings;
- b. The ability of the County to enforce administrative fines on owners of rental dwellings that are in violation of health and safety codes; and
- c. How administrative fines will be handled within the unincorporated areas of the County.

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